1 INTRODUCTION TO AND HISTORY OF THE SCIENCE OF FINGERPRINTS

1.1 PURPOSE

1.1.1 To provide the new student with an understanding of the operational systems employed in the Latent Print Section at Division of Forensic Science.

1.1.2 To orient the student with reference texts and training aids available, and the routine the student will be expected to follow towards successful completing of the training course.

1.1.3 To acquaint the student with the historical background of the science of fingerprint identification.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

1.2.1 The student will attain:

- An understanding of the mission and standard operating procedures in effect in the Division of Forensic Science and specifically in the Latent Print Section.
- An introduction to the reference material available to the student for use throughout the course.
- Introduction to the records and forms to be maintained on the student's progress throughout the course.
- An introduction to the history of fingerprints as a means of personal identification.

1.3 GOAL

1.3.1 Upon completing this training segment the student will possess knowledge and understanding to be able to do the following:

- Function and begin studies as a student in the Latent Print Examiner training program.
- Be able to recall from memory notable events in the history of fingerprints as a means of personal identification.

1.4 DISCUSSION

1.4.1 The technical basis for latent print identification is based on the following two premises:

- That papillary ridges are formed on the palmar surfaces of the hands and the plantar surfaces of the feet during fetal development and remain permanent throughout the life of the individual, except through damage by scarring or certain diseases.
- That no two areas of friction skin (papillary ridges) on the hands or feet of any person or persons is duplicated.

1.4.2 The science of Fingerprint Identification is primarily empirical. During the last 130 years (since 1858) no one has disproved the two premises listed above. Required readings for this training segment focus on Sir Edward R. Henry, Sir William Herschel, Dr. Henry Faulds and the FBI's Identification Division.

1.5 EXAMINATION

1.5.1 Successful completion of this segment of training will be determined by a written test.

1.6 REFERENCES FOR TOPIC I

1. Fingerprints and the Law, Moenssens, Chapter 1.
2. Fingerprint Techniques, Moenssens, Chapter 1.
3. Practical Fingerprinting, Bridges, Chapters 1 and 2.
4. Fingerprint Handbook, Fields, Chapter 1.
5. Fingerprints, Palms and Soles, Cummins and Midlo, Chapter 1.
6. Individual Identification and the Law Enforcement Officer, Nash, Chapter 3.
7. Identification Wanted, Dilworth.
8. Identification Technologies, Warfel, Chapters 1 through 5.
9. Friction Ridge Skin, Cowger, Chapter 1.
10. Crime Investigation, Kirk, Chapters 1 and 2.
11. Modern Criminal Investigation, Soderman, Chapter 5.
12. Advances in Fingerprint Technology, Lee, Chapter 1
13. Criminalistics: Introduction to Forensic Science, Saferstein, Pg. 437-439.
14. Fingerprints, RCMP, Book 1, Pgs. 3-7
15. Topic I Latent Print Section Reference Articles File.